Launching of Skylab

3601. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is going to launch a Skylab in June-July this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the cost involved and benefits expected from it;

(c) whether it is totally indigenous venture or in collaboration with others; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. However, there are plans for conducting experiments with platforms in orbit around earth for limited period and with specific objectives. A Spacecraft Recovery Experiment (SRE) is planned involving a 610 kg. Capsule. This is planned for launch by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle during the third quarter of 2006-07 from Sriharikota.

(b) SRE will have a metallographic experiment on board and the samples processed in space will be recovered and brought back for studies. The cost involved for this experiment is Rs. 46 crore. The technologies related to Re-entry and Micro-gravity experiments can be derived from this launch.

(c) Yes, Sir. This is totally an indigenous venture.

(d) SRE is intended to test reusable thermal protection system, navigation, guidance and control, hypersonic aero-thermodynamics, management of communication blackout, deceleration and floatation system, recovery operations, etc. In addition two scientific experiments (i) Growth of quasi-crystals in microgravity (ii) Biomimmetic synthesis of inorganic nano-particles under microgravity environment are planned.

Raising more orbit manoeuvres

3602. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to launch more satellites in the future;

(b) if so, the present status of each statellite and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the likely date of launching of each satellite;

(d) whether Government are also raising more orbit manoeuvres over the next few days; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details with respect to the satellites planned for the next two years are as below:—

Satellite	Present Status	Expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2006 (Rs. in crores)	Planned launch date
INSAT-4C	Final testing in progress	88.23	3rd Quarter 2006.
CARTOSAT-2	Integration and testing in progress	215.20	4th Quarter 2006.
SRE-1	Assembly and integration in progress	44.53	4th Quarter 2006.
INSAT-4B	Under Integration	Note 1 below	1st Quarter 2007.
GSAT-4	Payload and spacecraft development in progress.	72.03	1st Quarter 2007.
Oceansat-2	Under development	25.00	3rd Quarter 2007.
GSAT-5	Subsystem and payload fabrication in progress	33.50	4th Quarter 2007.
RISAT-1	Payload & Spacecraft subsystem development in progress.	228.31	4th Quarter 2007.
Chandrayaan 1	Payload & Spacecraft subsystem development in progress.	101.68	1st Quarter 2008.
INSAT-3D	Payload & Spacecraft subsystem development in progress.	Note 2 below	1st Quarter 2008.

NOTE 1: The expenditure incurred upto 31st March, 2006 for INSAT-4A/4B Spacecraft project, which includes INSAT-4A which is already launched and INSAT-4B which is under development, is Rs. 631.80 crores.

NOTE 2: The expenditure incurred upto 31st March, 2006 for INSAT-3 Spacecraft project, which includes INSAT-3A, 3B, 3C & 3E which have already been launched and INSAT-3D which is under development, is Rs. 1,090.86 crores.

(d) and (e) INSAT, GSAT and KALPANA satellites go through orbital manoeuvres every two months, which is a normal process to maintain their orbit in the required position.